

AFTER FINAL

This Amendment After Final Rejection is submitted in response to the outstanding final Office Action, dated December 20, 2004. The present application was filed on February 16, 2001, with claims 1-28, of which claims 1, 15, 19, 24, 27, and 28 are independent claims. In the Amendment and Response to Office Action dated March 16, 2004, claims 9 and 23 were cancelled. In the Amendment and Response to Office Action dated August 25, 2004, claims 29 and 30 were added. Claims 1-8, 10-22, and 24-30 are currently pending in the above-identified patent application. In this response, Applicants propose to amend claims 1, 15, 19, 24, 27, and 28. No additional fee is due.

This amendment is submitted pursuant to 37 CFR §1.116 and should be entered. The Amendment places all of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-8, 10-22, and 24-30, in a form that is believed allowable, and, in any event, in a better form for appeal. It is believed that examination of the pending claims as amended, which are consistent with the previous record herein, will not place any substantial burden on the Examiner.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10-18, and 24-28 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,721,827, hereinafter "Logan," in view of Yahagi et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,984,274, hereinafter "Yahagi." The Examiner also rejected claims 19-22 and 29-30 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan in view of Yahagi, and further in view of Ladd et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,539,359, hereinafter "Ladd."

Independent Claims 1, 15, 19, 24, 27 and 28

Independent claims 1, 15, 24, 27, and 28 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan in view of Yahagi, and claim 19 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan in view of Yahagi, and further in view of Ladd.

Regarding claim 1, the Examiner acknowledges that Logan lacks "determining a first and second time associated with a speaking of a first and second of the voice commands, wherein said first and second voice command identifies a start and end of said time interval," but asserts that Yahagi discloses these limitations.

Applicants note that Yahagi is directed to a speech recognition apparatus for *controlling a stop watch* with means for preventing errors due to delay in the speech

recognition process (see, Abstract), and that Logan is directed to an *audio program and message distribution system* in which a host system organizes and transmits program segments to client subscriber locations (see, Abstract). Applicants maintain that Yahagi and Logan are therefore directed to unrelated art and that there is no motivation to
5 combine the cited references. Applicants have also found no disclosure or suggestion in either Yahagi or Logan to combine the features cited by the Examiner. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not look to combine Yahagi and Logan.

Applicants also note that neither Logan nor Yahagi disclose or suggest
10 *storing data identifying a time interval and data identifying one or more of the first voice and second voice commands*. Independent claims 1, 19, and 27, as amended, require storing data identifying said time interval and data identifying one or more of said first voice command and second voice command. Independent claims 15, 24, and 28, as amended, require determining a plurality of time increments, each time increment comprising one of the tasks and at least one of the times; and storing one or more of said
15 time increments (wherein each task is associated with at least one of the times and at least one of the voice commands).

Thus, Logan and Yahagi, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest storing data identifying said time interval and data identifying one or more of said first voice command and second voice command, as required by claims 1, 19, and
20 27, as amended, and do not disclose or suggest determining a plurality of time increments, each time increment comprising one of the tasks and at least one of the times; and storing one or more of said time increments, as required by claims 15, 24, and 28, as amended.

Additional Cited References

25 Ladd was also cited by the Examiner for its disclosure of converting each of at least two voice commands to text. Applicants note that Ladd is directed to a markup language for interactive services (see, Abstract). Ladd does not address the issue of determining time intervals utilizing and storing voice commands.

Thus, Ladd does not disclose or suggest storing data identifying said time
30 interval and data identifying one or more of said first voice command and second voice command, as required by claims 1, 19, and 27, as amended, and does not disclose or

suggest determining a plurality of time increments, each time increment comprising one of the tasks and at least one of the times; and storing one or more of said time increments, as required by claims 15, 24, and 28, as amended.

Dependent Claims 2-8, 10-14, 16-18, 20-22, 25-26 and 29-30

5 Dependent claims 2-8, 10-14, 16-18, and 25-26 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan in view of Yahagi, and claims 20-22 and 29-30 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan in view of Yahagi, and further in view of Ladd.

10 Claims 2-8, 10-14, and 29, claims 16-18, claims 20-22 and 30, and claims 25-26 are dependent on claims 1, 15, 19, and 24, respectively, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Logan et al., Yahagi et al., and Ladd et al. (alone or in any combination) because of their dependency from amended independent claims 1, 15, 19, and 24 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim.

15 Conclusion

All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-8, 10-22, and 24-30, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

20 If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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